FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i spoke at ceremonies marking the departure of 100,000 troops to the battlefronts, Tehran radio reported. While maintaining that Iranian forces are more enthusiastic than ever to deliver the "final blows" against Iraq, he stressed that Iran does not intend to use "human waves against modern weapons." To win the war, Iran needs brave and trained men acquainted with modern weapons, using "accurate scientific calculation, proper organization, and appropriate training." Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani also addressed the gathering in Azadi Stadium, the radio noted, and he said Iran's military victories have caused the United States, the USSR, France, and other "satanic" powers to stop speaking to Iran in a "bullying" manner. He claimed that the superpowers have been obliged to "kneel" in an attempt to ask Iran to pay attention to them.

On the internal disputes over the U.S. arms deal, exiled former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr told Vienna radio that the recent attempt by eight Majlis deputies to question the foreign minister on the affair was part of a conspiracy to topple Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The plan was to put the latter in a minority in the Majlis and force his resignation, Bani-Sadr said, but it was foiled by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, who intervened on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's behalf in a 20 November speech.

As for the military situation, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi warplanes hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 3 December. On land, Iranian artillery shelled targets in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region, killing 7 civilians and wounding 21, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Lebanon

Camps War — Reporting on the continuing fighting, Beirut radio said 8 people were killed and 22 were injured in artillery attacks on the southern suburb of the capital 3 December. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio announced that 41 Palestinians were killed by the "brutal" shelling of Shatila, warning that Amal and its allies are preparing a big offensive against the camp. The radio also broadcast a statement by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat calling on Arab leaders to take a "responsible" stand on the camps war and accusing Syria of seeking to "liquidate" all residents of Palestinian camps. He said that over 3,000 Amal, Lebanese Army, and Syrian troops have surrounded Shatila, supported by Syrian tanks and artillery. In another development, Beirut radio reported that Israeli gunboats bombarded Palestinian positions near Sidon 4 December. The IDF spokesman confirmed the shelling of "terrorist" targets in the area, IDF radio noted.

In Damascus, Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with Palestinian and Lebanese officials in an attempt to find a cease-fire formula, JANA reported, adding that the talks were "positive." A delegation representing Egyptian opposition parties left Cairo for Damascus in order to help efforts to end the fighting, according to MENA. An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio expressed "deep regret" that Palestinians and Lebanese are aiming guns at each other instead of using them against "Zionist plots and compromising leaders." The statement viewed the camps war as the result of an "international plot" orchestrated from "dens of corruption" in Cairo, Amman, and Baghdad.

South Lebanon — South Lebanese Army troops in armored vehicles conducted searches south of Mashgarah in the wake of the recent attack on their positions, Jerusalem radio reported. Radio Monte Carlo cited a report that Israeli tanks were involved in the search operation, while Voice of National Resistance radio stated that Israeli helicopters fired at the Mashgarah area.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak called for the implementation of the Arab joint defense agreement to confront threats against the Gulf states in any expansion of the Iran-Iraq war, according to a statement to *Al-Ahram* cited by MENA. Mubarak noted that Egypt's relations with other Arab nations are "generally quite good," except with Libya. Regarding relations with Syria, Mubarak said there is no justification for the current rift, and he urged Arabs to renounce "verbal abuse and media campaigns" in their political relations.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid for talks in Tripoli, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported.

PDRY

State security organs have dismantled a "terrorist sabotage network" in Shabwah Governorate, an "authoritative source" told Aden radio.

DRA

According to XINHUA, a "highly placed" Afghan official who defected told an Afghan press agency that Council of Ministers Chairman Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand has been arrested in a "purge of pro-Karmal elements."

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'Appointments' Made in Council of Ministers

LD041601 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1550 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] After being proposed by the DRA Council of Ministers and approved by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, the following appointments have been made in the Council of Ministers:

Lt Gen Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo as the first vice-chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, as the DRA minister of defense; Abdol Wakil, as the DRA minister of foreign affairs; and Shah Mohammad Dost, as minister of state for foreign affairs and the DRA ambassador and representative extraordinary to the UN.

XINHUA Reports Soltan Ali Keshtmand Arrested

OW040816 Beijing XINHUA in English 0756 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, December 4 (XINHUA)—Afghan Chairman of Council of Ministers Soltan Ali Keshtmand has been arrested and taken to an unknown place, according to an Afghan press international report here today.

A highly placed Kabul official, who defected in very odd conditions and wanted to keep his name secret, has told the agency that under the new wave of purge of pro-Karmal elements from the Kabul regime, several other high-ranking officials are being kept under surveillance and some others have been ousted.

Babrak Karmal was relieved of his post as Afghan president and all other party offices on November 20. He was already replaced as general secretary of the ruling people's democracy party of Afghanistan last May by former secret police chief Najibullah.

Najibullah Meets USSR Central Asian Delegation

LD022137 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] This afternoon General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib and Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, met separately with the high-ranking party and state delegation from the Soviet Central Asian Republics headed by Timur Agzamovich Alimov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Tashkent Oblast Party Committee, engaged in a friendly visit to our country.

At these meetings, which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, talks were held on subjects of mutual interest such as the assistance and cooperation of the Soviet Central Asian Republics toward the DRA, especially in the northern regions of the country.

According to another report, this afternoon the high-ranking party and state delegation from the Soviet Central Asian Republics visiting our country, accompanied by Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, visited the permanent exhibition of DRA socioeconomic development and the museum of weapons.

Delegation Departs 3 Dec

LD032257 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] The high-ranking party and state delegation from the Soviet Central Asian Republics, headed by Comrade Timur Agzamovich Alimov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Tashkent Obkom, who came to Kabul to pay a friendly visit to our country at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee, left today for its country. The delegation was seen off at Kabul Airport by Comrades Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and (?Abolov), charge d'affaires of the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

Najibullah, Keshtmand Receive Gorbachev Notes

LD031850 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] In reply to a telegram of congratulations from General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the following message from General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade M.S. Gorbachev has arrived in Kabul:

To General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib, Kabul.

Esteemed Comrade Najib, I sincerely thank you for your sincere congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The fruitful friendship and cooperation tested over many years and the relations of internationalist solidarity between the USSR and the DRA, are the reliable guarantors for the preservation of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and are in full accord with the interests of the peoples of our countries. They serve peace and security in Asia.

The Soviet Union resolutely supports the policy of the Afghan leadership concerning the political solution of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. The withdrawal of some of the limited Soviet contingent from Afghanistan indicates the constructive approach of this sort of process for a solution and the goodwill of the Soviet Union and the DRA. The cessation of external interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan should be the response to this step.

I wish new successes in the reliable defense of the national democratic April Revolution and in the realization of the envisaged economic and social reforms for the friendly people of Afghanistan, the PDPA, and for yourself.

[Signed] M.S. Gorbachev

[Dated] Kremlin, Moscow 30 November 1986

A similar message has arrived in Kabul addressed to Chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers Comrade Soltan Ali Keshtmand from Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Comrade N. Ryzhkov.

Paper Cited on U.S.-Iranian 'Dirty' Arms Deal

LD031139 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December [date indistinct] BAKHTAR — The dirty and behind the curtain arms deal of the Reagan administration with Iran has disclosed yet another aspect of the U.S. policy which is contrary to all accepted (?legal and) ethical norms of human society, writes daily *Haqiqat-e Enqelab-e Sawr*. This scandal, which has created deep anger among the U.S. people, has revealed the double faced policy of the U.S. to its people and the world over.

[Words indistinct] the U.S. the people [words indistinct] each other as to why such a shameful deal has been made with out [word indistinct] consent of the American people. It is quite true and logical that the agitated U.S. citizens have given the name of "Iran gate" to this scandal, the daily adds.

It must be said here that it (?isn't only) the first time the people of the U.S. and peoples of other countries have witnessed such deceitful and formal [words indistinct] of the U.S. Administration. It was in the month (?April) this (?year) the daily points out that Washington charged Libya of terroristic acts and attacked that independent country.

Until recently, the U.S. authorities were denying supply of arms and ammunition to Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries. The shooting down of an American plane which was on a CIA mission over Nicaraguan territory proved this [word indistinct] plane was carrying arms and ammunition to the Nicaraguan bandits as well.

The official and high ranking authorities of the U.S. resort to lies and dirty games to conceal their sinister political aims, to throw dust into the eyes of the world people. But such designs will not succeed and the U.S. Administration is going to be engulfed in the scandals of its perfidious policy.

Gang 'Ringleader' Crushed in Parvan Province

LD040718 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 3, BAKHTAR — In a successful operation of the Armed Forces of the DRA with cooperation of the local residents a group of counter-revolutionaries belonging to the notorious band of Rabbani was crushed in the suburbs of Jabul os Saraj and Salang Districts in Parvan Province, north of the country. Several members of this band including its ringleader, Almas, were killed in the operation.

2 Chinese-made mortars, a number of machine guns, 54 anti-personnel mines, and assorted weapons were confiscated by the Armed Forces. These weapons were placed in hideouts by the counter-revolutionaries for murdering innocent people and disrupting their peaceful life.

Gandhi on Confronting Terrorism in Punjab

BK031619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister told opposition leaders today that the center is doing its utmost in consultation with the Punjab government in dealing with terrorism in the state. A 90-minute meeting took place in New Delhi this morning between the government and opposition leaders under the chairmanship of the prime minister to discuss some points which arose in the recent parliamentary debate on the activities of terrorists in Punjab.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi remarked that a wrong impression had been created by some of the speakers that the center had been slow in acting to check terrorism. He pointed out that the existing legal provisions do not confer any power on the center to act directly but only in consultation with the state government. The fullest opportunity had been taken for consultations with the state government in dealing with the situation.

Most parties present at the meeting said they were against any encroachment by the center into the state government's jurisdiction in Punjab or elsewhere. They said their leaders had made this clear in their speeches in parliament. One or two parties, however, declared themselves in favor of direct central intervention.

Response Continues to Situation in Punjab

'Disturbed' Status To Last 6 Months

BK031554 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] The Punjab government has declared the entire Amritsar District and 16 other subdivisions of the state as disturbed areas, thus, empowering the Army to assist the civil administration. Reports from Chandigarh say that a notification to this effect issued today will be enforced for 6 months.

Delhi Curfew Termed 'Peaceful'

BK031607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] In Delhi, the situation in the curfew bound Chandni Chowk and other areas has been officially described peaceful. According to the Delhi police night curfew in the area will continue. The situation will be reviewed in the morning.

The curfew was relaxed today for 2 hours. The police commissioner, Mr Ved Marwah, said no untoward incident was reported from any part of the capital today.

Delhi Curfew Lifted 4 Dec

BK040515 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] According to the Delhi police, the curfew in the Chandni Chowk area has been lifted from 0700 this morning. The deputy commissioner of police, north, told the All India Radio correspondent that police will remain deployed in the area as a precautionary measure. The overall situation in the capital is officially described as peaceful.

Northeastern Region Airports Placed on Alert

BK040849 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The airports in the northeastern region have been placed on red alert. The civil aviation minister, Mr Jagdish Tytler, told the Lok Sabha in reply to a question that this has been done as there was apprehension of unlawful interference with civil aviation.

Minister Defends Missile Test Site Selection

BK040600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, told the Lok Sabha yesterday that the national test range at Balasore in Orissa is the best site on strategic and technological considerations. It will also be used for rocket launching for scientific studies. He was replying to members' query on a calling attention motion on the subject moved by Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, and others. Mr Dandavate and other members were critical that the best agricultural land has been taken over against popular resentment. The members who spoke on the motion urged the government to select the site which causes least human misery. However, the minister maintained that the test range in Balasore is geographically the most suitable site and no alternative is available on the north-south axis. Members belonging to the Janata Party, CPI-M, Congress-S, Forward Block, and RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] expressed their protest by staging a walkout.

Commentary on U.S. Supply of AWACS to Pakistan

BK031127 Delhi General Service in English
1340 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Commentary by Jagjit Singh of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis on AWACS for Pakistan — announcer read]

[Text] Pakistan has been trying to obtain Airborne Early Warning and Control System —AWACS — of some sort from the United States since 1981 when the U.S. started resupplying arms to it. The next arms package in the $4.02 billion aid for the next 6 years has been proposed by the U.S. Administration. It is in this context that the U.S. secretary of defense, Caspar Weinberger, announced that the U.S. Administration is keen to provide this capability to Pakistan as early as possible. His assistant secretary subsequently elaborated that the actual system is yet to be decided, but clearly indicated that the whole range of systems from E3A AWACS to E2C Hawkeye and (Terad) balloons were under consideration, although the balloons and the E2C have already been rejected last year.

Even though it was finally decided to provide an AWACS type capability to Pakistan, it will take sometime before its actual delivery unless the systems are supplied from U.S. stocks. In the interim period it has been suggested that the U.S. fly at least occasional patrols over Pakistan. To make them meaningful such surveillance would have to be fairly frequent and will require information gathered by the AWACS to be passed on to the Pakistani air defense system. The precedent of U.S. AWACS in Saudi Arabia since 1980 is illustrative of the nature of the arrangement required. However, to fly patrols over Pakistan, U.S. Air Force AWACS need not necessarily be based in Pakistan or use any of its facilities. The task could be performed adequately from bases and aircraft carriers in the Arabian Peninsula, Persian Gulf, and the Arabian Sea.

Supply of AWACS to Pakistan would represent a major quantum jump in technological sophistication, the impact of which would be far reaching, in fact, mind-boggling, as stated recently by Mr Natwar Singh, union minister of state for external affairs, in Parliament while criticizing the proposal. The AWACS would completely alter the very nature of air warfare and that the confidence in the superiority provided by its capability may lead to perception of success through use of military force by Pakistani leadership to resolve disputes with India, as indeed has happened in the past. This becomes even more significant because during peace time an accurate, complete, and detailed picture of Indian air defense and its strength and weaknesses could provide the incentive for a surprise attack. The provision of the AWACS to Pakistan, thus, could prove to be highly destabilizing to the security environment of the Indian subcontinent.

The AWACS is sought by Pakistan on the grounds of border air violations by Afghan aircraft. Because of the mountainous terrain, undefined border, the distance of Pakistan's air bases from Afghan border and limited reaction time available to counter border intrusions by combat aircraft, the AWACS would be of extremely limited, in fact, negligible use in that scenario. Moreover, President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan himself has ruled out a direct security threat from Afghanistan.

The proposal to supply AWACS to Pakistan has already evoked strong protest in India as well as in knowledgeable circles in the United States. Mr Steven Solarz, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Sub-committee on South Asia and Pacific Affairs which will consider the issue shortly, has stated that Indian apprehensions were certainly understandable and foresees very stiff resistence in the U.S. Congress and possible rejection.

U.S. experts, like Selig Harrison, have warned against the proposed supply on the grounds that it would cause incalculable damage to long term U.S. security interests and also to the growing Indo-U.S. relationship. He has strongly argued that the over-riding U.S. security interest in South Asia lies in compatible relations with New Delhi rather than short term intelligence benefit of the Islamabad connection. The Reagan administration's proposal, therefore, may be expected to face rough weather in the Democrat-dominated U.S. Congress.

U.S. Attitude Change Toward Tehran 'Striking'

BK300303 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Nov 86 p 10

{Editorial: "U.S.-Iranian Flirtation"}

{Text} The Iranians caused much discomfiture to the White House by abruptly lifting the veil on the surreptitious visit to Tehran by President Reagan's emissary, Mr Robert McFarlane the other day. Apparently, the U.S. would have liked the world to learn of an arms- for-hostages deal with Iran only after it was finally clinched. That details of such a deal are being settled has now been confirmed by the Speaker of the Iranian assembly, Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani at the Friday prayer meeting, a usual occasion for important policy announcements. The deal in the works is for the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian Shiite militants in Lebanon in return for the de-freezing of Iranian assets held in the U.S. since the fall of the Shah seven years ago. How vital these assets are to Iran should be clear from the fact that they include arms worth over ten billion dollars. Is the U.S. prepared to release all these arms? This is obviously one of the issues on which hard bargaining is currently going on. Whether the two sides eventually strike a deal or not, the mere fact that they have made much progress towards it has put both in not a little unfavorable light.

Tehran has hitherto vowed to have nothing to do with the "Satan", its favourite sobriquet for the U.S. unless the latter unconditionally restores bilateral diplomatic ties. The change in the U.S. attitude is, if anything, far more striking. Some commentators in Britain, which has just severed relations with Syria in what it says is an anti-terrorist action, have said that the U.S. bid to strike a bargain with Iran and through it with the Lebanese militants makes nonsense of Mr Reagan's tough anti-terrorist posture. This apart, an American-Iranian deal is more than likely to have far- reaching repercussions in West Asia. President Assad of Syria, for instance, will be piqued because the U.S. has not used his good offices in securing the release of the American hostages in Lebanon. What is more, he cannot but take a dim view of the prospect of Iran again emerging as a strong military power through large-scale infusion of American arms. He has so far supported Iran in its conflict with Iraq. Yet, only the other day he expressed strong opposition to Iran occupying Iraqi territory. He may well have been aware of the goings-on between Tehran and Washington.

2 Pakistani Intruders Killed; 3 Arrested

BK031357 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 3 Dec 86

{Text}Two Pakistan intruders were killed, three persons arrested, and Indian currency worth about 1 lakh rupees were seized in different incidents by the Border Security Force {BSF}. One intruder was killed early this morning in (Sikandanagar) area of Rajasthan in an encounter, while another was kiled in Anupgarh area.

BSF parties also apprehended one person in Barmer sector of Rajasthan and recovered Indian currency worth about 1 lakh rupees from him.

Iranian Minister Khatami Continues Visit

Meets with Ministers 3 Dec

LD032104 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 3, IRNA — An Iranian official said here Wednesday that the aggressor Iraqi regime, which trampled on the rights of a Muslim country by imposing an all-out war on Iran, should be toppled, otherwise the region would not witness peace and tranquility.

Minister of Ershad-e-Islami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami made the remarks at the Pakistani parliament in Islamabad Wednesday after his arrival from Karachi where he was met at the airport by Pakistani Minister of Information and Broadcasting Chaudhury Shujat Hussain. [passage omitted]

Hoj. Khatami who is leading a cultural delegation later on the same day met several Pakistani deputies at the country's parliament where he commented on the imposed-war saying that the Iranian nation rose up to the occasion to defend Islam and the revolution and thwart imperialist plots.

The Pakistani information minister who was also present at the parliament expressed hope that Khatami's visit would strengthen Tehran-Islamabad relations.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with Pakistani Minister of Culture and Tourism Ghulam Mohammad Ahmad Manika here on the same day, Khatami referred to the importance of Islamic culture and said that the colonialists had tried to destroy the culture of the Muslim countries. Khatami described culture as a base for building the human personality as well as a basis for the progress of a society. "A strong culture can create a powerful nation invulnerable to the flood of world events", he added.

Pakistan was founded on the holy Islamic ideals, so, the Islamic Republic attaches great importance to its relations with this neighbouring country, Khatami said. In reply, Manika expressed hope that Khatami's visit to Pakistan would help further propagate the Islamic culture.

Conveys Message to Ziaul Haq 4 Dec

NC040747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that Islamic Guidance Minsiter Mr Khatami, who is in Pakistan, met and spoke with President Ziaul Haq last night. He also conveyed a message to the Pakistani president from our president, Mr Khamene'i.

Welcoming Mr Khatami and the members of his delegation, Mr Ziaul Haq referred to the ties of history and culture linking the two countries, and said: The Muslim people of Pakistan have great affection for the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has done much to implement Islamic law. He then expressed hope that the Muslim people of Pakistan will gain the same sort of successful experience acquired by Iran in various fields. [passage omitted]

Defense Production To Be Self-Sufficient Soon

BK031217 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said self sufficiency in defense production would be achieved soon to make the country strong and stable. Addressing the concluding session of the 6th International Seminar on Defense Technology in Wah today, he said Pakistani people have patriotic spirit and enough individuals are available who have rich technical minds. The president emphasized the need for a strong army to defend the country with the active cooperation of the people. The president said the results of the seminar would successfully lead to help achieve the target of acquiring sophistication and modernism in defense production. He particularly appreciated the efforts and the zeal and skill of Pakistani workers and engineers engaged in defense production.

Earlier, the chairman of the Pakistan Ordnance Factory [POF] said POF has started generating funds by exporting the surplus. He said our export trade has made a healthy influence on the thinking and output of our workers. The president also performed the opening of the new auditorium of the POF.

SRI LANKA

Finance Minister Reviews Economic Situation

BK121215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 nov 86

[Text] The minister of finance and planning, Ronnie de Mel, introduced the 10th budget of the present government in Parliament this morning. The minister's proposals [which] bring a massive gap of 32 billion rupees are expected to be announced later this afternoon.

In a review of the country's present economic situation, Mr De Mel said that government's plans and programs on the economic front have been affected by the ethnic problem and a very difficult period in the international economy. He observed that the economic policies adopted in 1977 had saved the country and the people, helping to continue to grow and prosper. [sentence as heard] The pace of growth was slow after 1983. The continuation of violence has necessitated a substantial increase in defense expenditure which constitutes 5 percent of the gross domestic product. This expenditure had pushed inflation to 6 percent. The minister observed that if not for the sad events in 1983, Sri Lanka may well have been close to the front rank of developing nations. The world is astounded that Sri Lanka still continues to grow at a reasonable rate despite these problems.

The public investment program has been centered largely on the Mahaweli project which has brought new land under irrigation, settled landless people, and increased hydroelectric power generation. In addition to the Mahaweli, the government has completed several other major irrigation schemes and almost 5,000 minor irrigation schemes. Mr De Mel pointed out that high priority has been given to the housing and urban development program. He said that all these could not have been achieved if not for the liberalized economic policies. The strongest vindication of the government's policies has come from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, which has virtually endorsed these policies in their latest manifesto.

Despite the successes, the minister admitted, that some basic structural weaknesses continue to exist in the economy. Export earnings last year from the three major traditional export crops decreased by 22 percent. But the import increased by 5 percent. Industrial output increased by 5 percent in 1985, compared with 15 percent in the previous year. The low growth was largely due to the poor performance of the public sector. Mr De Mel said that a 20-percent growth in the private sector industry was one of the strongest features of the Sri Lankan economy.

Referring to the agricultural sector, the minister noted that the rice production level attained last year is close to the consumption requirements of the country. Tea production increased by 3 percent last year but the prices declined sharply. Rubber production recorded a drop of 3 percent despite an increased application of fertilizers. The coconut production recorded an increase of 52 percent in 1985, compared with the previous year. The production of minor export crops experienced mixed performance with substantial increases in production of cocoa, cardamom, and coffee. Fish production recorded a marginal increase last year, compared with the previous year. Mr De Mel said that the private sector accounted for over 50 percent of the total transport services in 1985.

On housing and urban development, Mr De Mel said that Sri Lanka is being hailed as a model of country which has made extraordinary progress in providing better shelter for its people. The major theme in the ongoing 1 million houses program is minimum intervention by the state and maximum support by the users. The minister also outlined the achievements of the Greater Colombo Economic Council and the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee despite the adverse investment climate. He said that the unemployment rate which was brought down to 12 percent is now estimated to have increased to 14 percent and added that it would not be possible to stabilize the employment situation without peace in the country. Mr De Mel observed that some of the difficulties faced by Sri Lanka are beyond our control. However, there is much that we can do. For development, peace is essential. And if peace returns, we must draw up an agenda for reconciliation, recovery, and rehabilitation. The govenrment's investment priorities, with the completion of the Mahaweli, are being focused on agriculture, food and nutrition strategy, and health sectors among others.

'Terrorist Gang War' Erupts in Batticaloa

BK031133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Two separatist terrorists have been killed by a mine laid by a rival gang of terrorists in the eastern province as the terrorist gang war erupted again last Sunday in Batticaloa. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the dead terrorists — (Bir Singham Balachandran) and (Subhramaniam Sinaiar) — belonged to the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam — PLOTE — and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students — EROS. The killings had taken place in Karativu about 35 miles south of Batticaloa.

Meanwhile, intelligence sources said that with continuing reverses being experienced by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE — at Point Pedor, Thondomanar, Mallaittivu, and several other areas, the rival gangs of terrorists, who had been forced to suspend operations by Prabhakaran tigers, are now resurfacing with a view to launching action against the LTTE in the northern and eastern provinces.

The sources said that terrorist cadres belonging to PLOTE and EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] had in the face of a serious LTTE onslaught on them abandoned operations and withdrawn to villages of their particular caste where they took refuge. These terrorists were now moving toward reforming their cadres to take on the LTTE again.

Police Arrest 113 Suspected Tamil Separatists

BK031315 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Colombo, Dec 3 (AFP) — Sri Lanka said Wednesday its government Security Forces arrested 113 suspected Tamil sep-

aratists in the east of the country after a land-mine killed one policeman and seriously injured three others. The land-mine was detonated by separatists as a police patrol passed a junction near the city of Batticaloa on Tuesday, the government Media Centre said, and the three injured constables were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Security Forces arrested 113 suspects from around the Kaluwanchikudi area close to Batticaloa late Tuesday, some 77 of those detained were released early Wednesday while the rest are still being interrogated, sources said. Security Forces arrested another five men in an eastern village Tuesday which sources said were mostly members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

In the north-east of the country, government troops opened fire on a group of armed men in a remote village in the Trincomalee District, killing one man while two others escaped, the Media Centre said. The dead man was identified as a member of the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students.

In the north, armed separatists kidnapped a Sinhalese man in the northern district of Vavuniya on Monday, the Media Centre added.

Meanwhile, in Jaffna, students were continuing to boycott classes following the kidnapping of a fellow student by the Tigers a month ago, a resident of the northern city confirmed by telephone. The Tigers assured students at a meeting on Friday that they would not interfere with student activities but the students say they will boycott lectures until the kidnapped student is released. A rival separatist group plastered posters around Jaffna a few days ago alleging that the Tigers had shot dead the kidnapped student called Vijitharan, the source said.

Tamil Radio on 'Fake Broadcasts', Disruptions
BK031427 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1328 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Beloved countrymen, on various occasions in the course of the history of our Tamil Eelam freedom struggle, the stooges of imperialists and the reactionary organizations which represent them have been trying to hamper the progress of our revolution by resorting to various evil tricks. It is quite clear the mentor of these hooligans, the racist Sri Lankan J.R. [Jayewardene] government which is vexed by the progress of our struggle, is getting counsel for conspiracy from foreign spy organizatior . The government, which is not capable of confronting .n. .ilitary activities of the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters who are working with the strength of the people, is under the wrong impression that it can succeed by sowing confusion among the people of Tamil Eelam. What else can the capitalist demons do, that have no political insight or prudence?

The Sri Lankan Government succeeded in disrupting the Voice of Tamil Eelam broadcast between 1530 and 1630 [10000 and 1100 GMT] last Sunday [30 November]. The success coincided with problems with our transmiter. Henceforth, the Tamil Eelam Communist Party will take steps for counter action in case the Sri Lankan Government attempts to indulge in creating such complications.

Although the Voice of Tamil Eelam shifted its frequency from 7010 KHZ, a Sri Lankan radio station continued its disruption attempt throughout. At this time, there was a fake broadcast using the name of the Voice of Tamil Eelam, the authentic information media of the Communist Party of Tamil Eelam, using the same frequency of 7010 KHZ by the Sri Lankan Government or some reactionary groups. In this broadcast certain very mean calumnies which are far from the truth were unleashed against the leader of our fraternal organization. Those who lack the knowledge of history despite showering despicable lies announced that the broadcast was from our sacred information media. People are well aware of the conspiracies of such reactionary forces. However, if such fake broadcasts would be repeated in future we will let the people know about the truth at least in a few sentences in our news bulletin on the very next day.

The Voice of Tamil Eelam, which was launched with the objective of providing political awareness to the people, has a sound, unshakable faith in the might of the people. Voice of Tamil Eelam broadcasts are being carried out keeping in mind the prosperous future of the Eelam revolutionaries and the freedom fighters. Requesting all to analyze the commentaries of its broadcasts, Voice of Tamil Eelam calls upon every revolutionary to undertake activities for political advancement as much as possible in order to lead our people toward the path of progress. As said by Comrade [name indistinct]; the healthy comments are not graves before us but are sharp tools to mend history.

Musavi on Mobilization, Lebanon Clashes
LD031256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] During this morning's session of the cabinet a report was presented on the activities of the headquarters for supplying the emergency requirements of floodstricken regions as they have emerged during the past 24 hours. The headquarters was set up at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. The cabinet approved the allocation of 1.35 billion rials to increase the fund available to the floodstricken regions. The relevant departments were instructed to continue the relief works by employing all their possibilities.

According to our correspondent's report, during this session, Planning and Budget Minister Zanjani, explained general policy proposals of his ministry for the budget for the year beginning 21 March 1986. The report has stressed the need for reduction of the budget deficit ceiling, (? amendment) of the system and the state administrative establishment, and making the activities of organs and systems more efficient.

This session also discussed the future trip of the director of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations to Iran, which will take place at the invitation of the minister of finance and economic affairs, for holding the 10th joint session of the two countries' economic cooperation. The cabinet was also briefed on the trip of the Indonesian foreign minister to Tehran, which will take place at the invitation of our country's foreign minister.

At the conclusion of today's session of the cabinet, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi was interviewed by our correspondent, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Musavi, as you are aware, the large Corps of Mohammad has left for the battlefronts today; what do you think the outcome of this vast public presence will be on the fronts and on the political arenas?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is a movement at the national level and demonstrates the will of our nation to stand until victory. God willing, they will gain such a victory. (? I am proud of) this nation for its selflessness and resistance for the sake of its Islamic aspirations. This task demonstrates the might of the Islamic Republic in the world and its capability to organise public mobilization. The importance of this force is its composition as it is made up from volunteer popular forces and with people's initiative. For this reason, this force can be interpreted as a sign of our system's power and our nation's belief in the sacred system of the Islamic Republic. The outcome of this force, practically and psychologically, will be very high on the fronts and these forces will play their main role, that is, delivering blows to Saddam's regime.

[Question] For some time now, most of the regional news has been allocated to the clashes between the Amal militia and the Palestinians in southern areas of Lebanon; in view of the importance attached by the Islamic Republic of Iran to this issue, could you please tell us what steps have been taken in order to terminate these clashes?

[Musavi] No doubt, in order to end this problem, the belief should be respected that we must fight against Israel. Israel should be considered an unnatural cancerous tumor in the region. Everyone should realize the need for all the armed forces to aim their weapons against Israel. All should seek arms and destroy Israel's existence as a phenomenon imposed on the region by the United States. If such a belief were created, other problems would be solved. Self-destructiveness, by aiming weapons among ourselves, is the problem created when the belief is weakened. Unfortunately, we are witnessing such a mentality among some factions. The official stance of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic is that all forces should arm themselves and stand side by side aiming their weapons against Israel. This objective should never be forgotten and on this basis the Islamic Republic is trying to overcome this undesirable situation, in which we see a hand of Zionism is involved and we see Israel's pleasure in it, so that the forces would come closer as soon as possible and would come together for their principles, and primarily for the struggle for the destruction of Israel. [end recording]

About the news related to the Iraqi use of facilities provided by some littoral states of the Persian Gulf to attack the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the absence of any denial by some of these states, Mr Musavi said: The nondenial feeds our suspicion. We think that if the Persian Gulf is to be safe, it should be safe for all and if it were to be unsafe, then we could make the situation unbearable to all countries of the region. So far we have demonstrated this capability.

Mr Musavi added: The system of the Islamic Republic of Iran was established for achieving victory, demonstrating resistance, and exerting influence; and now we have shown that we are faithful to our principles and can remain so. Therefore, those seeking stability in the Persian Gulf should bear this in mind that the Islamic Republic of Iran shall not give up its main policy and shall not remain silent about provocations; and it shall answer blows with heavier blows. Our biggest objective is to stand and avoid being hit; if we were hit, then we would hit back harder. The revolution has moved forward with this mentality and thus no one should ever doubt whether we are serious about our policies.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Lebanon Fighting
LD031839 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 3 Dec 86

["Text" of Foreign Ministry statement issued 3 December]

[Text] In His exalted name.

In circumstances whereby world arrogance, led by the United States and international Zionism, has not stopped its plots for a single moment against the aspirations of the Muslim, freedom-seeking nations of the region, and is daily planning a new onslaught aimed at enslaving these nations and crushing their liberation struggles; in circumstances whereby the regime occupying Jerusalem is daily becoming more impudent by putting the most barbarous steps and repressive methods into effect in occupied Palestine and Lebanon in connection with the wronged

Muslims enslaved by it; at a time when the jihad being waged by Lebanese fighting Muslims against the Zionist occupation is daily acquiring more extensive proportions and when not a day passes without some Muslim mujahid giving up his life in order to inflict casualties or losses on the forces of the Zionist enemy, it is a cause for deep regret that, in step with the plots hatched by U.S. arrogance, those occupying Jerusalem and their mercenaries in the region, aimed at dragging Palestinian aspirations into compromise, Lebanon should be turned into a scene of (?rancor) and massacres, whereby the Palestinian and Lebanese guns are being used in clashes against one another instead of being aimed at Zionist plots and compromising leaders who have employed their guns in serving the cause of capitulatory negotiations with the usurping Zionists and not in liberating the Muslim land of Palestine and dear Jerusalem!

The Islamic Republic of Iran, aware this dangerous international plot is being orchestrated from the dens of corruption in Cairo, Amman, and Baghdad, hereby strongly condemns the continuation of these clashes, which will have no victors except world arrogance and usurping Zionism and their compromising stooges. The Islamic Republic calls on all the warring factions to appreciate the historic conditions wherein the heroic struggles of the Muslim nations are already being waged against the great Satan and against international Zionism, to put an end to these clashes, and to muster all their resources toward confronting these arrogant and compromising plots!

Opposition Speaks Against Deals With U.S.

LD031509 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Dec

[Statement by the Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq-e Iran Organization—Majority]

[Text] Struggling compatriots, revolutionary and patriotic Iranian people. Once again the Khomeyni regime has directed the fire of its rancor against you. A new treachery against our people and homeland is now in progress at the hands of the regime. This time the satan of Jamaran [Khomeyni's residence] has become hand in glove with the great satan, U.S. imperialism. The reactionary akhunds [pejorative term for Muslim preachers], who were endeavoring with their 'Death to America' slogan to describe themselves to you as so-called revolutionaries, have now been disgraced in all corners of the globe. The whole world has realized that covertly and for some time now the Khomeyni regime has been busy negotiating and making deals with America. Both the Reagan administration and the Khomeyni regime have disclosed that for 1 and 1/2 years America's plan to become closer to and cooperate with the Khomeyni regime is being implemented and that the sides have had a number of direct and indirect negotiations about the matter.

In an official statement Reagan has said that covert contacts between the Iranian and U.S. Governments have taken place on a regular basis and that the visit by the U.S. Government delegation led by McFarlane, the U.S. president's former national security aide, was the last of these contacts. He stressed that McFarlane had full authority to reach agreement with the Khomeyni regime. Reagan emphasized that America had officially placed arms at the disposal of the Khomeyni regime. The American delegation led by McFarlane, during its 5-day stay in Tehran, conducted negotiations with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and reached agreement on many issues relating to U.S. assistance to the Khomeyni regime in the war with Iraq through the delivery of American arms to Iran, the implementation of the $20 billion arms agreements concluded between the shah and the U.S. Government, cooperation between Iran and the United States on the release of American hostages, and expanding political and economic ties between the two countries.

Compatriots, the criminal Islamic republican regime has entered into the most dangerous deal with American imperialism in order to continue this devastating war, to continue the killings and destruction, to continue its disgraceful existence which is thoroughly soaked in the blood of the most noble sons of this country. The Khomeyni regime regards the continuation of the war and so-called victory as inextricably linked with its own future and it is willing to make any deals to achieve that. That is why the regime is now using the last outstanding gain of the February 1979 revolution, namely the elimination of the political and military influence of world-devouring American imperialism, as a means of making a deal with the biggest enemy of Iran and the world's people.

Reagan and Khomeyni both want to continue and escalate the war at the expense of the destruction of Iran and Iraq. U.S. imperialism and the Khomeyni regime both regard this ruinous war as the greatest blessing. America and the Khomeyni regime both want the murder and suppression of Iranian patriots and revolutionaries, particularly the communists. America and the Khomeyni regime both want to crush the Iranian people's struggle and to silence the people's right-seeking voice. Reagan and Khomeyni have many common objectives and aims in the plot against the Afghan revolution, in the plot against the region's revolutionary movement, and in the hostility toward neighboring Soviet Union.

For this reason, the regime treacherously and covertly has entered into a deal with the great satan. Compatriots, workers, toilers, intellectuals: The reactionary clergy have placed Iran in mourning; they have rolled in blood the spring of freedom; they have emptied your larder, closed down factories, and destroyed the coutnryside. These executioners are killing our youth. They enchange our revolutionary sons and engage in butchery. They trample women's rights and dignity underfoot. They insult the honor of all the people. In order to continue all this bloodshed and criminality, they are now busy making deals with American imperialism. In order to stem this tragedy we should rise in a struggle as decisively as possible. Everything depends upon our determination and will, on our unity and struggle.

The regime of akhundi repression is plunged into a crisis. The regime's foundations are getting shakier every day. Tensions and rifts are intensifying within the regime every day. We should rise in struggle with firm determination. We should embark on all forms of struggle against this regime. We should deliver the cries of 'Long live peace', 'Long live freedom', 'Death to Khomeyni', and 'Death to American imperialism' as loudly as possible throughout the country and rise to overthrow this bloodthirsty regime.

Long live peace! Long live freedom! Down with the Islamic Republic regime! Death to global imperialism led by American imperialism!

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq-e Iran Organization — Majority

Arms Deal 'Initiative' Said Taken by Tehran

AU031348 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1145 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Raimund Lowe report on an interview given to him by former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr; date and place not given — recorded; Bani-Sadr's statements in French with superimposed German translation]

[Text] The demand for U.S. weapons and spare parts, which had become a question of survival because of the war with Iraq, did not make only inferior Iranian bodies get into contact with the officially taboo great Satan, the United States. According to former president Bani-Sadr, the arms deals were based on a decision made by the highest Iranian leaders. The initiative had been started by Tehran, Bani-Sadr says.

[Begin Bani-Sadr recording] Khomeyni himself is behind this policy. In July 1984 he sent Mr Sadeq Tabataba'i to Zurich in order to make contact with the United States. When this did not yield the desired results, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeyni, Khomeyni's son, met with their advisers and decided to get the imam's agreement for direct negotiations. Khomeyni agreed. It is inconceivable that Iranian politicians would have advanced thus far if they had not been sure of the consent of the revolution leader. [end recording]

The opponents of the arms deals with the United States, Bani-Sadr thinks, are among the Revolutionary Guards, the Islamic students, and in those parts of the Shi'ite clergy whose members do not consider themselves to belong to the ruling authoritarian Iranian establishment. The spokesman of this group is Khomeyni's designated successor Montazeri. Says former president Bani-Sadr:

[Begin recording] The strictest opponents of Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani are Montazeri's followers. Montazeri has brought the entire affair to light. [end recording]

Bani-Sadr does not consider it possible that a reconciliation between Rafsanjani and Khomeyni's successor Montazeri will take place. They have publicly accused each other of high treason, murder, and other crimes. Between the two groups there is a fight to the death. Dozens of Montazeri's followers have been arrested over the past few weeks. Khomeyni's successor was able to break the wave of repression against his followers only by openly threatening to resign.

Over the past few days, however, Montazeri's opponent, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani, has been attacked. Critics in Iran, say that the Iran connection [as heard] has led to a disaster. Allegedly, only Khomeyni's intervention saved him from being voted out of parliament. Says Bani-Sadr:

[Begin recording] In parliament there was a conspiracy to topple Rafsanjani, and Khomeyni himself intervened to prevent this. Formally, this action was carried out via a letter by eight members of parliament in Tehran to the foreign minister, which demanded an explanation for contacts with the United States. Since the Iranian foreign minister — like his U.S. counterpart — had not been informed about these activities, the speaker of the Majlis would have had to answer. Everything was prepared to push him into a minority position and then to demand his resignation. But the leader of the revolution got wind of the affair and in a speech on 20 November he supported Rafsanjani and accused the president's opponents of splitting the nation. Then the demand for dealing with the affair in parliament was withdrawn. [end recording]

Bani-Sadr believes there has been a big deal between Washington and Rafsanjani's group in Tehran in connection with the Gulf war. It allegedly contains the resignation of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, which has been demanded by Iran for years, in exchange for Iran's assurance to stop destabilizing the pro-Western Arab states. But, at present, Bani-Sadr says, the opposing power groups in Tehran are paralyzing themselves. There is no longer any coherent policy.

'Prominent Role' of Majlis Speaker Questioned

PM031146 Paris LE MONDE in French 2 Dec 86 p 3

[Jean Gueyras report: "Tehran: Growing Criticism of Mr Rafsanjani"]

[Text] The supply of U.S. arms to Iran has not just "caused trouble" in Washington — a fact which Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani openly welcomed — but it also very nearly cost the latter his job as speaker of the Majlis. In fact, according to reports from Tehran, the eight deputies who in early November called on the government to explain its contacts with Washington were aiming primarily to place Mr Rafsanjani in a minority in parliament.

Before submitting their written question, the eight deputies made sure that they had the support of a majority of Majlis deputies. They obtained the agreement of a large number of IRP deputies, who have a majority in parliament, and of those grouped around the newspaper *Resalat* (conservative religious right) and deputies who support the policy of Ayatollah Montazeri (imam Khomeyni's official heir).

It was therefore virtually certain that if the eight deputies had gone ahead with their written question, Mr Rafsanjani would have been placed in a minority during the debate which would have followed the government's answer and would have been forced to tender his resignation. It was precisely to prevent this from happening that Imam Khomeyni broke his customary silence and, while condemning the United States, expressed virtually complete satisfaction with the Majlis speaker in a speech to the families of "martyrs" on 20 November. At the same time he threatened those who criticized the Majlis speaker, going so far as to state that they were trying to divide the nation, to plot against the Islamic Republic, and to take action against Islam.

It was following this serious warning that the eight deputies reversed their initiative and withdrew their written question. However, the agitation against the regime's number two continued in the form of tracts and pamphlets and at times in the form of street demonstrations against those responsible for Mr McFarlane's visit to Tehran in September. The most forceful of the texts distributed is the one written by the Iranian Liberation Movement chaired by Mehdi Bazargan who was the Islamic Republic's first prime minister. The ironic thing is that Mr Bazargan was forced to resign as prime minister on 6 November 1979 because he had established contact in Algiers — although completely openly — with Zbigniew Brzezinski who was then President Carter's national security adviser. In his statement (entitled "The Story of the Colt and the Cake," which is a reference to the gift which Mr McFarlane gave the Revolution Guards at Tehran airport) Mr Bazargan bluntly criticizes the behavior of Mr Rafsanjani whose explanations, he stresses, "have increased the confusion instead of making the truth clear." The former prime minister even criticizes Mr McFarlane's visit.

A Statement By Mr Bazargan

He says he is convinced that Mr Rafsanjani would not have mentioned this affair if untimely revelations had not been made on this subject abroad by (pro-Syrian) Lebanese weekly *Al-Shira'*. He adds that Tehran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said he knew nothing about Mr McFarlane's visit until several weeks after he came to Tehran. He reveals that Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said at the cabinet meeting on 5 November that he was opposed to any contacts or negotiations with the United States outside the framework of the Algiers agreements (which ended the affair of the U.S. Embassy hostages held in Tehran) and the framework set up by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague to settle Iranian-American disputes. "It is a fact, therefore," Mr Bazargan continues, "that only a limited number of Iranian leaders know what really happened and we are entitled to ask why the Iranian people and those who are laying down their lives on the minefields do not have the right to know the whole truth."

Mr Bazargan also questions the prominent role played by Mr Rafsanjani in the country's affairs. "When a state," he writes, "has a president, a prime minister, and a foreign minister who are all members of a party which has a majority in the country and enjoy the revolution guide's full confidence, what right has the parliamentary speaker to interfere in affairs which do not fall within parliament's or his own sphere of competence? This practice is contrary to the Constitution and to the oath taken by Mr Rafsanjani as a deputy and as parliamentary speaker. This means that power is in the hands of a man who does not have the authority to wield it."

Baluchistan Mojahedin Anti-Khomeyni Acts Viewed

WA041412 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 Nov 86 pp 1, 11

[Text] Paris, 17 Nov, INA -- The fighters of the Iranian opposition Baluchistan mojahedin movement have carried out a series of operations against the personnel and facilities of the Khomeyni regime.

A spokesman for the movement said that its fighters burned all radio and television booster equipment in the City of Zaboli during the past week after seizing the station for 5 hours. A BBC broadcast confirmed this operation. Area residents saw flames rising from the station at a distance of several kilometers.

In another operation in the City of (Khash), a group of fighters burned all the equipment and facilities of its large poultry company -- which has a budget of 77 million Iranian tomans -- and destroyed two large trucks belonging to the Khomeyni guards.

On the Gasht/Paskuh/(Safit) road, the fighters of the movement laid an ambush for a Khomeyni guard convoy of military vehicles and showered them with a hail of RPG fire, destroying them completely. They killed and wounded no less than a hundred people.

In another operation, a movement force attacked (Yazgah Tohlab) station on the Mirjaveh-Jalg road seeking to break the siege imposed on the City of Zahedan. Using RPG's and hand grenades, they killed everyone in the station (70 members of the Khomeyni guards) after a 5 hour battle.

Meeting Said Held for Joint Front Against Iraq

NC040750 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 30 Nov 86 p 12

[Text] Siirt *(Tercuman)* — The Islamic Republic of Iran has organized a meeting in Tabriz for the leaders of Kurdish organizations in Iran and Iraq and the representatives of Arab and Shi'ite groups. The meeting was arranged by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad al-Bakr Hakim in order to set up a joint front of political groups in the region opposed to Iraq. Idris Barzani, the brother of Mas'ud Barzani, who is the leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan; Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; and Dr 'Abdorrahman Qasemlu, leader of the Iran-based Democratic Party of Kordestan; and representatives of Shi'ite and Arab political groups in the area attended the conference.

After exchanging views at the meeting, the participants decided to cooperate with Iran for the purpose of establishing an Islamic republic in Iraq which would incorporate Al Mawsil and Kirkuk. They also agreed to form a joint front against Iraq to achieve their objective.

Although the leaders of Kurdish organizations have occasionally met in the past to coordinate their activities against Iraq, from now on they will carry out their attacks with the support of Iraqi Shi'ite and Arab political groups.

Larijani Views Red Cross, UN on Human Rights

LD031233 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 3, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani, commenting on the resumption of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, told reporters Tuesday that the organization should take this opportunity to

display sincerity towards its commitments and international conventions.

Larijani said that a mere statement released by the ICRC on the resumption of activities in Iran cannot restitute the trust of Iranians in the organization. The ICRC's activities in Iran were halted due to a distorted report by the committee on the Iraqi POW camp in Gorgan, northern Iran, in 1984.

The Iranian official said that following repeated demands by the ICRC to resume activities the Supreme Defense Council finally agreed with the request. The ICRC, Larijani added, has promised to take a proper stance towards its responsibilities which were neglected in the past.

He stressed that the ICRC's main task would be to take stance against deployment of internationally banned chemical weapons, attacks on residential areas, to investigate the affairs of those missing in action, and to see into Iraqi treatment of Iranian prisoners of war.

Pointing to the recent visit of the special UN envoy on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, to Iran, Larijani said there was no improvement in the Afghan issue since the UN intended to solve the problem in the framework of East-West talks.

He further said that the role of Afghan mujahidin in the talks is neglected, calling for an immediate halt to Afghanistan's occupation. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, has explicitly announced its firm stance towards the issue.

Elsewhere, Larijani referred to the recent resolution by the UN Human Rights Committee condemning Iran for allegedly violating human rights, he said that Iran is the first country which has a codified Islamic law. He stressed that the resolution, backed by the U.S. and Britain, is a plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran. "Furthermore, the resolution is an insult to the world Muslims and Iran will strongly resist it".

On the human rights committee's request to visit Iran, Larijani said "all the doors of Iran are open to those who wish to see our Islamic judicial system."

On the UN Security Council position towards the Iraqi-imposed war, Larijani said that Iran has not experienced an outstanding improvement in the council's stance. The council had good opportunities to punish the aggressor (Iraq) but it had never studied the issue of aggression. Therefore, he added, continuation of the war (by Iran) was defense against aggression.

Larijani also added that six months ago the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had sent a confidential letter to the UN secretary general saying that if the UN is unable to make an indepth study of the war, at least it can try to thwart Iraqi plots for the expansion of war, deployment of chemical weapons, attacks on residential areas and passenger planes.

Larijani said that due to desperation of the Iraqi regime in its imposed war, its (the war's) spread had been predicted in the letter, adding that Iraqi air raids on the U.A.E. Abu Al-Bakhush oil platform further proved it.

The Iranian official also referred to the forthcoming summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization and hoped that the meeting, due to be held in Kuwait, would take a major step by discussing the issue of aggression.

Larijani concluded by saying that the host country has shouldered an important responsibility and should be a pioneer in confronting aggression. Therefore, he added, Kuwait has a grave responsibility toward the issue and Iran is carefully following Kuwait's attitude in this connection.

Education Minister on Geneva Conference Tasks

NC031020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Minister of Education Mr Akrami left Tehran for Geneva this morning to take part in the 40th conference on education and training. He spoke to our correspondent before his departure in the following interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Akrami, could you tell us what issues will be discussed and what plans your delegation intends to present in Geneva?

[Akrami] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With greetings to the nation's imam and our dear Islamic fighters, and with prayers for their brilliant success, I wish to inform you that the International Office for Training and Education is a world organization that was formed before the United Nations, [as heard] and meets once every 2 years to review a specific aspect of education in member-countries. This year will be devoted to an assessment of schooling at the secondary level.

Our brothers who have already left for the conference are preparing to discuss problems related to secondary education. They will also try to gather other information there and review curricular changes. The other point I would like to mention is that the observations we have received on this, particularly those they have been sent back to us, focus on the lack of a spiritual or moral content to secondary education in the world as a whole. In short, students of secondary schools have no moral or spiritual awareness.

The message we have to convey here is extremely valuable. In light of the spirit shown by our dear students at the secondary and other levels, and the work of our trainers in particular, as well as the programs being implemented by our dedicated Muslim teachers in the revision of texts, we can say that we are among the world leaders in spiritual and moral instruction. We will also brief the participants on those subjects that have been incorporated into the curricula of secondary schools since the revolution. Hopefully, we will not return empty-handed.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Communique No 2,674 Details Combat Operations

LD031826 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 3, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire destroyed part of Iraqi defensive positions in northwestern fronts and set ablaze several observations posts of theirs in the region on Tuesday.

Joint Staff Communique No 2,674 said that Iranian artillery fire checked the Iraqi engineering activities as well as their troops relocation activities in the frontlines of Sumar, Qasr-e Shirin, and Marivan operational regions. Casualties and losses were inflicted on the enemy forces, the communique said.

In southern fronts, Muslim combatants in addition to defending their positions dispatched several patrol units, as well as silenced the enemy fire. A number of Ba'thist troops were killed, reported the communique.

Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants halted movement and silenced the fire of an Iraqi vehicle column in Eyn-e Khowsh operational region.

In Nahr 'Anbar Iraqi engineering activities and their building of new watch posts in the region were halted. Several Iraqi vehicles together with their crew were also destroyed in Pich-e Angizeh.

Iranian Gendarmerie, the communique said, destroyed several bunkers as well as gun emplacements and set ablaze three heavy and light vehicles of the Iraqi forces, killing a number of enemy soliders.